Summary of 2014 Washington, D. C. Briefing Meetings April 8 through April 11, 2014

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Prepared by
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and
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Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors.

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

The annual Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Washington, D.C. briefing trip was conducted from April 8 through April 11, 2014. The objectives were 1) to seek congressional support for appropriations for the programs included in the President's 2015 budget and 2) to assure continued administration support for the programs and inclusion of funding in the President's future budgets. A small group representing the non-federal participants in the two recovery programs participated in the trip. The group included:

Darin Bird – Utah Department of Natural Resources

Pete Cavalli – Wyoming Game & Fish Department; Biology Committee, Upper Colorado River Program

Catherine Condon – Southern Ute Indian Tribe Representative, Coordination Committee, San Juan Recovery Program

Mike Greene – Public Service Company of New Mexico

Henry Maddux – Utah Department of Natural Resources representative; Chairman, Management Committee, Upper Colorado River Recovery Program

Patrick McCarthy – The Nature Conservancy representative, Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs

Bill Miller – Chairman, Biology Committee, San Juan Recovery Program; Southern Ute Indian Tribe representative, San Juan Biology Committee

Tom Pitts – Water Users representative, Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs **Stanley Pollock**, Navajo Nation Department of Justice; Coordination Committee, San Juan Recovery Program

Steve Wolff – Wyoming State Engineer's Office; Management Committee, Upper Colorado River Program.

Meetings were conducted with the staffs of the congressional delegations for the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming; congressional authorizing and appropriations subcommittee staffs having jurisdiction over the Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation] and Fish and Wildlife Service [Service] and their budgets; Department of Interior, National Park Service, Reclamation and Service officials, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) staff members. A meeting roster is attached (Attachment 1).

Supporting Information/Handouts: Copies of the recovery programs' briefing booklet 2013-2014 Program Highlights were distributed to those with whom we met. (The briefing booklet can be downloaded at the UCREFRP's webpage http://www.coloradoriverrecovery.org/general-information/general-publications/program-highlights.html) The booklet provided the right balance of overview and detailed information required for short, focused appointments with a broad spectrum of people, some of whom were familiar with the recovery programs and others who had not heard about them previously.

Mike Greene, Public Service Company of New Mexico prepared a briefing sheet summarizing key aspects of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Attachment 2). Mike provided this at meetings with the New Mexico congressional delegation staff members, appropriations/authorizing subcommittee staffers, and to DOI staffers. It was very effective in pointing out the economic benefits of the San Juan Recovery Program to PNM's San Juan Generating Station and to New Mexico communities in both the San Juan and Rio Grande basins.

Service and Reclamation funding in the President's budget for the 2015 fiscal year is described in the funding request brochure (Attachment 3). The brochure was provided to all congressional staffers. The funding brochure also lists non-federal organizations (water users, energy/power interests, environmental organizations, states, tribes) that had submitted funding support letters to the appropriations subcommittees in previous years. Many of these organizations had or would be submitting funding support letters for the 2015 appropriations.

Meetings with Members of Congress and Staff; Congressional Committees: The group met with two members of Congress, Representative Tipton (Colorado) and Senator Heinrich (New Mexico). Other meetings were with the members' staffers, as is normal. Staffs of congressional authorizing committees and appropriations committees were briefed on the status of the programs and informed that efforts to seek authorization to extend the use of hydropower funding beyond 2019 would likely be initiated in 2016. Each appointment provided the opportunity to briefly describe the genesis, objectives, status and benefits of the two programs. The group requested each congressional delegation office to communicate their member's support for fiscal year 2015 funding requests for the recovery programs in the Reclamation and Service proposed budgets to the appropriations subcommittees.

Common responses from members, staff, and committee staff included:

- Most offices said that they would communicate their support for appropriations to the appropriations subcommittees in some form.
- Members appreciate the fact that participants are supporting funding levels included in the President's budget, and not asking for appropriations over and above the President's budget.
- Members view the recovery programs favorably, given the significant grassroots support by states, tribes, water users, power customers, and environmental organizations.
- In light of ESA controversies being brought to Congress regarding the Bay Delta, Chattahoochee River and others, it is refreshing to have a diverse group supporting a common ESA solution.
- It is important that the non-federal participants show up each year, as Congress and the congressional offices are besieged with letters and emails requesting support for appropriations. It would be easy for the recovery programs to get lost in the shuffle.
- Congress understands that the goal of these programs is recovery of the species. There were consistent questions regarding the status of the species and progress towards recovery. (Bill Miller and Pete Cavalli did an excellent job responding to scientific questions regarding the species and recovery actions, such as non-native fish control.)
- Concerns were expressed about the duration and cost of the programs and whether progress towards recovery is being made.
- The congressional offices and the House Water and Power Subcommittee staff were informed of the need to initiate reauthorization of annual hydropower funding to assure funding beyond 2019. Several staffers suggested initiating the effort in 2016, given the time and effort now required to get bills through Congress.

Meetings with Office of Management and Budget and Department of the Interior

Office of Management and Budget: The group met with Alex Hettinger. The group discussed current authorizing legislation and funding requests for FY15. OMB staff asked for details on capital projects and water management and wanted to know how much water could be acquired for \$3 million. The group explained how water acquisition worked, various costs depending on uses, and that not much water could be had for \$3 million. OMB staff talked briefly about water marketing concepts, likely related to another unidentified project. Overall, it was a very good meeting. OMB staff seemed supportive of efforts of the two programs.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Directorate and National Park Service: The group met with Michael Bean, who was representing Rachel Jacobson (Acting Asst. Sec. for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), Fish and Wildlife Service staff, and Alan Ellsworth, National Park Service. We discussed the briefings conducted with the four states' congressional delegation and committee staffs and that we were supporting and requesting support by the delegations of FWS appropriations for the two programs. The discussion then led to the status of fish recovery and the concern expressed in meetings with congressional staff about progress towards recovery. The Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service are very supportive of the partnerships and the programs' efforts to recover the listed fish species.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and Reclamation Directorate: The group met with Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Lowell Pimley, Acting Commissioner for Reclamation, and other staff. The group commended Reclamation's participation in the programs, especially management of the capital projects program. Recognition of Reclamation's efforts was appreciated by DOI and Reclamation. Anne Castle continues to hold up the two programs as models for dealing with water and ESA. This briefing was very positive.

Department of Interior/FWS Budget Offices: The group met with Denise Flanagan, Director of Budget (DOI), Steve Ferrel (FWS budget), and Dave Sire with the DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. The meeting went well. Their offices are working on out year budgets rather than the FY 15 budget our group was there supporting. They are supportive of the budget requests for the programs made by Reclamation and FWS.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: The group met with Jennifer Mock Schaeffer, Government Affairs Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. She is aware of and supportive of the recovery programs. She asked several questions regarding the programs' non-native fish control efforts and outreach to angling groups. She understands the need for the programs to continue non-native fish control. We also discussed the FWS hatchery effort and the importance of the continued operation of mitigation hatcheries.

Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Thanks to the Upper Basin and San Juan water users for again hosting the Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 11. Pete Cavalli made a presentation on non-native fish control. The presentation was developed by Kevin McAbee and Tom Chart, UCR Recovery Program staff with input by Dave Campbell, San Juan Recovery Program Director, Pete Cavalli and Bill Miller. A number of pertinent questions regarding non-native fish control were raised by staffers attending the luncheon.

The Congressional Staff Luncheon has previously been well attended by congressional staffers. However, for the last two years, attendance has been very light. This is no longer an effective tool for communicating with congressional staff and will not likely be conducted in future years.

Conclusions and Recommendations: It remains vitally important for representatives of the two recovery programs to visit congressional annually, Interior Department and non-governmental organizations' officials and their staffs. Congressional and administration staff turnover occurs every year, especially in election years. The visits remind Congress and the federal agencies of the importance of the programs to a broad range of constituents including states, tribes, power customers, energy producers, environmental organizations, and water users. This is essential to assuring that funding for the programs is included in the President's annual budget request and that these funds are appropriated by Congress. The visits also help assure support in Congress and in the administration for needed amendments to the funding authorizing legislation for the programs' that periodically occurs and will occur again in 2016.

Trip participants recommend special efforts to build awareness of and support for the recovery programs in 2016 and 2017, as the 2019 expiration of funding authorization for the program approaches. This might include organizing a field tour in the company of the programs'

participants or other outreach activities that would give Congressional staffers more awareness of the programs' accomplishments.

We remain convinced, and are reminded by personnel with whom we meet, that we could be easily overlooked if we did not make this effort each year.

Appended Materials: Following this narrative are attached documents as described above.

Attachment 1 - 2014 Briefings Meetings – As Conducted

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program & San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Date	Time	Meeting With	Affiliation	Office Location	Phone Number	E-Mail Address	Comments and Follow-up
Tuesday April 8	8:30 a.m.	Trip Participants' Meeting	Briefing Trip Participants	Lobby at the Hotel	479-4000	Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street S.W. Washington, DC 20024 www.hicapitoldc.com	
CONFIRMED	9:45 a.m.	Jonathan Shuffield	Rep. Steve Pearce	RH-2432	225-2365	Jonathan.Shuffield@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	10:30 a.m.	Sisy Garcia	Rep. Ben Ray Lujan	RH-2446	225-6190	sisy.garcia@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	11:15 a.m.	James Thomas, LD	Rep. Doug Lamborn	RH-2402	225-4422	James.Thomas@mail.house.gov	
	LUNCH						
CONFIRMED	1:00 pm	Jeff O'Neil	Rep. Ed Perlmutter	LH-1410	225-2645	Jeff.Oneil@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	1:30 PM	Courtney Krause	Rep. Jared Polis	LH-1433	225-2161	Courtney.Krause@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	1:30 p.m.	Landon Stropko	Rep. Cynthia Lummis	CH-113	225-2311 226-0695	Landon.Stropko@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	2:00 p.m.	Alma Acosta	Rep Michelle Lujan Grisham	CH-214	225-6316	Alma.Acosta@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	2:30 p.m.	Megan Dornan Tim Martin	Rep. Scott Tipton	CH-218	225-4761	Megan.Dornan@mail.house.gov Tim.Martin@mail.house.gov	w/Rep. Tipton
CONFIRMED	3:00 p.m.	Joe Williamson	Rep. Cory Gardner	CH-213	225-4676	Joe.Williamson@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	3:30 p.m.	Kiel Weaver Matt Gall Adam Eckman	House Natural Res. Water & Power Subcommittee Senior Counsel to House Res. Committee Chairman	LH-1522	225-8331 225-6065 225-8331	Kiel.Weaver@mail.house.gov Matt.Gall@mail.house.gov Adam.eckman.@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	4:15 pm	Evan Armstrong	Rep. Mike Coffman	RH-2443	225-7882	Evan.Armstrong@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	4:45 PM	Eleanor Bastian, LD	Rep. Diana DeGette	RH-2368	225-4431	Eleanor.Bastian@mail.house.gov	
Wednesday April 9	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////
CONFIRMED	9:15 a.m.	Ed Cox Mike Freeman Fred Ferguson Mike Jerman Jan Beukelman Tim Robison	Senator Orrin Hatch Senator Mike Lee Rep. Rob Bishop Rep. Jason Chaffetz Rep. Jim Matheson Rep. Chris Stewart	SH-104 SH-316 CH-123 RH-2464 RH-2211 CH-323	224-5251 224-5444 225-0453 225-7751 225-3011 225-9730	John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov Mike_Freeman@lee.senate.gov Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov Mike.Jerman@mail.house.gov Jan.Beukelman@mail.house.gov Tim.Robison@mail.house.gov	
CONFIRMED	10:15 a.m.	Kaveh Sadeghzaden	Senator Tom Udall	SH-110	224-6621	kaveh_sadeghzadeh@tomudall.senate. gov	
CONFIRMED	11:00 a.m.	Maya Hermann	Senator Martin Heinrich	SH-702	224-5521	Maya_Hermann@heinrich.senate.gov	w/Senator Heinrich

	LUNCH						
CONFIRMED	1:30 p.m.	Jason Albritton Tyler Rushforth Chris Tomassi	Senate Environment & Public Works Committee	SH-508	224-8832 224-6176	Jason_Albritton@epw.senate.gov Tyler_Rushforth@epw.senate.gov Chris_Tomassi@epw.senate.gov	Jason Albritton will join if his schedule clears.
CONFIRMED	1:30 PM	Virgilio Barrera David McCoy	Sen. Mark Udall	SH-730	224-5941	Virgilio Barrera@markudall.senate.gov David_McCoy@markudall.senate.gov	
CONFIRMED (Clifford only)	2:15 p.m.	Brian Clifford	Sen. John Barrasso	SD-307	224-6441	Brian_Clifford@barrasso.senate.gov	Only have small conference room so limit people to 4-5
CONFIMED	2:45 p.m.	Rita Culp Brent Wiles	Senate Interior, Envir. & Related Agencies Approps Subcommittee	SH-125	224-7262 228-3487	Rita_Culp@appro.senate.gov Brent_Wiles@appro.senate.gov	
CONFIRMED	3:30 p.m.	Sara Tucker Kellie Donnelly Megan Brewster Ron Faibish	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee	SD-304	224-4971	Sara_Tucker@energy.senate.gov Kellie_Donnelly@energy.senate.gov Megan_Brewster@energy.senate.gov Ron_Faibish@energy.senate.gov	
CONFIRMED	4:15 p.m.	Irina Feygina	Sen. Michael Bennet	SR-458	224-5852	irina_feygina@bennet.senate.gov	
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Thursday April 10							
CONFIRMED	10:00 a.m.	Alex Hettinger	Office of Mgmt & Budget Natural Resources Division (Water & Power Branch) & Energy, Science & Water Division	Room 9116,New Executive Office Building, 725 17 th St., N.W.	395-3404 395-4587	Tomer_Y_Hasson@omb.eop.gov AHettinger@omb.eop.gov Sherron_R_White@omb.eop.gov	Contact: Alex Hettinger
CONFIMED	10:30 a.m.	Roger Cockrell Tyler Owens	Senate Energy and Water Development Approps. Subcommittee	SD-184	224-8119	Roger_Cockrell@appro.senate.gov Tyler_Owens@appro.senate.gov	
CONFIRMED	11:15 a.m.	Michael Bean (DOI) Bert Frost (NPS) Mike Weimer (FWS) Alan C. Ellsworth (NPS)	Meeting with Counsel to Asst. Sec.; National Park Service , DOI and FWS staffs	Room 3038 Main Interior Building 1849 C Street, NW			
	LUNCH						
CONFIRMED	1:00 p.m.	Anne Castle Lori Caramanian Lowell Pimley	Asst. Secretary for Water and Science; Dep. Asst. Sec. Water & Science; Acting Commissioner of Reclamation;	Room 6641 Main Interior Building 1849 C Street, NW	208-3186 208-3136 513-0501	Michelle_Brown@ios.doi.gov	

CONFIRMED	1:45 p.m.	Denise Flanagan Patrick Joos Dave Sire (DOI)	Interior (DOI) Budget Office - Director and Deputy Director; Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	Room 3038 Main Int. Building, 1849 C Street NW	208-5308	Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov Patrick_Joos@ios.doi.gov	
CONFIRMED	3:00 p.m.	Jen Mock Schaeffer, Gov. Affairs Director	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Suite 331, Hall of States 444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 388	624-7890	jenmock@fishwildlife.org	
	4:00 p.m.	Laura Wilkeson, Manager, Federal Relations Washington Office Dir.	Western Gov. Association	Hall of States 444 N. Capitol St. NW	624-5402		
CONFIRMED	4:30 PM	Camille Calimlim- Touton and Matt Strickler	House Natural Res. Water & Power Subcommittee and House Nat. Res. Fisheries, Wildlife Oceans & Interior Affairs Subcommittee	186 Ford HOB	226-1902 226-0200	Camille.Calimlim@mail.house.gov Matt.Strickler@mail.house.gov	
Friday April 11	///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////		///////////////////////////////////////	///////////////////////////////////////		///////////////////////////////////////
Confirmed with Giancarlo & Berquam	10:15 a.m.	Angie Giancarlo Perry Yates Taunja Berquam Darren Benjamin Rick Healy	House Energy, Water Devel. & R.A. Approp. Subcomm. and House Interior, Enviro & R.A. Approp. Subcommittee	RH-2362 RH-B-308	225-3421 225-3481 225-3081	Angie.Giancarlo@mail.house.gov Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov Taunja.Berquam@mail.house.gov Darren.Benjamin@mail.house.gov Rick.Healy@mail.house.gov	
Confirmed	11:30–1:30	Congressional Staff Appreciation Luncheon	House and Senate Delegation and Committee staffers	CVC-268	593-1798 224-2363		

ATTACHMENT 2



Wavetop Briefing for New Mexico Congressional Delegation Spring 2013

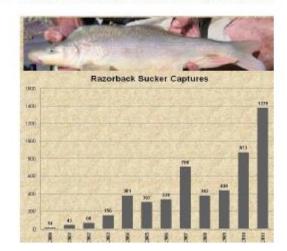
Requesting

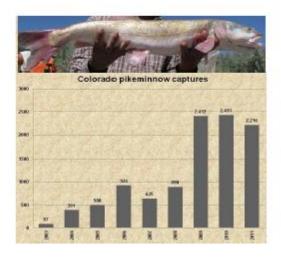
 Support for FY14 funding for San Juan and Upper Colorado Recovery Implementation Programs

SJRIP Provides Endangered Species Act Compliance for key San Juan/Chama and San Juan River Diversions totaling over 600,000 acre-feet per year



Fish recovery is on the right track





ATTACHMENT 3 – Non-Federal Participants' Funding Request Document





Requested Fiscal Year 2014 Congressional Appropriations

The non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program request the support of the Congress for fiscal year 2014 funding included in the President's recommended budget.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

\$706,300 of "Recovery Program" funds for the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery of Species Element)

- Program management: Funds for salaries, expenses and recovery activities of the Program staff for vitally-important day-to-day program administration and management essential to continuing the ongoing success of this multiagency, multi-element, large river basin species conservation partnership.
- Monitoring achievement of recovery goals: FWS' estimations of the abundance of fish populations, stocking evaluations and monitoring of fish and habitat establish the progress being made towards accomplishing the recovery goals' downlisting and delisting criteria.
- Data Management: FWS personnel in the FWS CRFP Offices maintain the Program's essential computerized inventory database systems - providing management and analysis tools to assess species' response to program activities. Species' response determines when the recovery goals are met.

\$200,000 of "Recovery Program" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery of Listed Species Element)

 Program management and FWS participation: Funding will meet the salaries and expenses of the San Juan Program Coordinator and Assistant and other related FWS expenses in completing Program actions.

\$485,800 for the Ouray National Fish Hatchery (Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity)

 Meeting the ongoing operation, maintenance and upkeep expenses associated with this innovative Program hatchery is essential to continuing to annually accomplish the Upper Colorado Program's stocking objectives.

Bureau of Reclamation

\$8,500,000 in "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" funds within the Upper Colorado Region budget (\$6,690,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$1,660,000 for construction activities for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$150,000 for construction management activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program).

- \$4,690,000 for the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Canal Automation Project near Palisade, CO, to continue construction of the canal automation system to more effectively match diversions with consumptive use demands and conserve approximately 17,000 acre-feet of water per year; that water will be redirected to Colorado River instream flows to replace water no longer available from Ruedi Reservoir.
- \$2,000,000 for the Tusher Wash Fish Screen to proceed with planning, design and construction of the fish screen on the Green River in eastern Utah. The Upper Colorado River Recovery Program will work with the U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to install an electrical barrier to prevent endangered fishes from entering the canal.
- \$1,660,000 for construction of the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) fish passage facility. This work must be integrated with the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project diversion for the San Juan Lateral; otherwise, funding will go to the Orchard Mesa I.D. Canal Automation Project.
- \$100,000 for Upper Colorado Program Management for contracting, budgeting, reporting, contract administration, tracking expenditures, and addressing issues associated with capital project construction.
- \$50,000 for San Juan Program Management for budgeting, contracting and contract administration, reporting, tracking expenditures, and transferring Capital Improvement Program funds to the appropriate entities.

Funding Support Letters Demonstrate Congressional and Grass Roots Support

Appropriations for the programs have had strong bipartisan support by Members of Congress representing Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Testimony supporting appropriations for the recovery programs has been previously submitted to Congress by:

Participating States

- State of Colorado
- · State of Utah
- · State of Wyoming
- · State of New Mexico

Native American Tribes

- · The Navajo Nation
- · Southern Ute Tribe
- · Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation

Cities, Water Users, Environmental and Energy Organizations

- The Nature Conservancy
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
- Arizona Public Service
- BHP Billiton
- Central Utah Water Conservancy District
- City of Aurora, Colorado
- City of Colorado Springs, Colorado
- City of Farmington, New Mexico
- Colorado River Water Conservation District
- Colorado Water Congress
- Denver Water
- Dolores Water Conservancy District

- Grand Valley Water Users Association
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District
- Pueblo Board of Water Works
- · Public Service Company of New Mexico
- San Juan Water Commission
- Southwestern Water Conservancy District
- · Tri-County Water Conservancy District
- · Uncompangre Valley Water Conservancy District
- Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District
- Utah Water Users Association
- Wyoming Water Association

